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Cornelius, W.J.J.

Extirpation or reform, which shall we adopt...

[London]

[1922]

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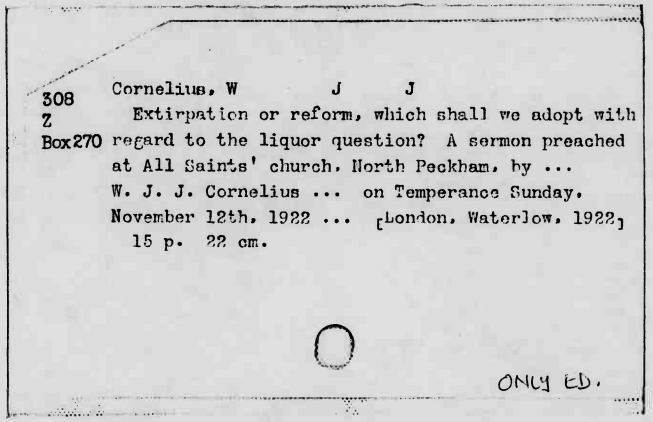

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Cornelius, W J J
Extirpation or reform, which shall we adopt with regard to the liquor question? A sermon preached at All Saints' church, North Peckham, by ... W. J. J. Cornelius ... on Temperance Sunday, November 12th, 1922 ... [London, Waterlow, 1922]
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EXTIRPATION OR REFORM

WHICH SHALL WE ADOPT WITH REGARD TO THE

LIQUOR QUESTION?

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Box 270

A SERMON PREACHED AT

All Saints' Church, North Peckham,

BY THE VICAR,

The Rev. W. J. J. CORNELIUS,

M.A., D.Litt.,

(Author of "What is True Temperance? How shall we obtain it in England?")

On Temperance Sunday, November 12th, 1922.

"Temperance is not an impelling, but a restraining virtue. "It avoids extremes. Prohibition forces men into an extreme; "not merely restraining appetite, but actually destroying the means "of practising temperance."

Rev. F. W. MACCAUD, B.D.,
Vancouver.

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President N.M. Butler
8-13-27

April 28, 1920 JA/HEC

EXTIRPATION OR REFORM.

PROVERBS 24; 3, 4, 5, 6: Through wisdom is a house builded, and by understanding it is established. And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong: yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war.

The extraordinary interest displayed in the sermon I preached in this church just a year ago prompts me to say something further this year on the same topic, as well as on a subject which is closely allied to it.

In the first place, after much earnest thought and further investigation, I find that the views I expressed last year are still those I adhere to, and in fact, in the face of what has been reported to me by friends and in the public Press, I find my protest against Prohibition by Act of Parliament stronger than ever.

By one means and another I was able to secure verification of those facts and personalities challenged by adverse critics, and such proofs have been shown to those whose opinions matter. With regard to others, who, possessed of strong bias, are not open to conviction, I decided to ignore them altogether.

I dropped the newspaper controversy when it became unedifying and calculated to increase personal animus, for it had become the cause of filling my letter box with correspondence couched in abusive and offensive terms. I do not believe in providing enemies with the "occasion to blaspheme."

Yet the sermon was asked for, and preached in all good faith, as an expression of well-considered opinion on a subject vitally affecting millions of His Majesty's loyal subjects, whom I am anxious to safeguard from the opportunity to break the laws of the land. Before, and since, I had, and have, no connection with the Licensed Trade, hold no Brewery Shares, and am wholeheartedly in favour of real Temperance Reform on the lines laid down in a Manifesto just issued by a Committee of Clergy and Free Church Ministers to candidates and electors in Camberwell. This document is signed by ten men besides myself, and the eighth section runs as follows:—"While believing that moral standards are best raised by the free influence of high principles and example on public opinion, and that persuasion is always better

than compulsion, we hold that there is urgent need for more effective legislation to deal with the evils of Intemperance, Impurity, Betting and Gambling. Existing excesses are not only contrary to Christian principles, but they are, inevitably, wasteful and injurious to the national health of mind and body."

It seems to me that the above is a declaration which is most sound. Intemperance and excess are undoubted evils; deal with these and you have solved your problem and dealt with the wastefulness and injury which is destroying the minds and bodies of so many of our fellow-creatures.

This, I maintain, can be done in an effective way without robbing mankind of that freedom and liberty of action which are so dear to us, whose forefathers obtained them at the cost of much self-sacrifice in the ages long past.

Our best and highest traditions are bound up with these priceless boons, and Prohibition would rob us of them and give us instead the bitterness of an unholy restriction which is undermining national character in other lands, and producing deceit, lying, illicit trading and secret law-breaking.

Whilst I do not propose to repeat former arguments on this heading to any great extent, I am bound to say that there are certain points recently reported as resulting from Prohibition in America I wish to refer to. No one can deny that a tremendous incentive to evil lies in the enormous development of home-brewing and wine-making which is going on day by day in the States.

Illicit stills can be bought at the stores in a finished and usable state or in parts to be put together at home, and liquor is being made in quantities which seem surprising. But it is deplorable that any liquor should be made in a home where there are young children, who thus grow up with a knowledge of its use and manufacture.

Of course, this is punishable, but so far-reaching in extent is this home-manufacture known to exist that the originator of the Eighteenth Amendment brought a motion before Congress to provide that the official search of private dwellings where brewing and distilling was suspected should only be authorised on warrant, and punishment should only be meted out when the product was proved to be for sale. This means that it has been found impossible to punish everyone who exercises the right of an individual, while breaking a law of the State, so vast a number being guilty officially.

Well, has Prohibition prohibited? I leave you to answer the question after hearing this sermon.

In one selected district, the hop dealers declared in 1921, that they estimated that ten million barrels of beer had been made

privately, and that the average strength of the liquor was double that of what was formerly made by the commercial breweries.

In one year the grape growers of California sold enough grapes and grape concentrates to make over twenty million gallons of wine.

One of the great manufacturers of private liquor is the American farmer, who must have his hard cider. From this fact comes the accommodating " vinegar fiction," as it is termed.

Cider must not contain more than one-half of one per cent. alcohol, except it is in process of becoming vinegar. But the farmer still goes on making his cider of the same strength as formerly and he does not mind his country being Prohibitionist a bit.

The States need the Italian worker in their midst, and he declares he must have his wine.

So the law thoughtfully permits the head of a household to make 200 gallons of wine per year for the consumption of himself and his family.

I wonder how many heads of families have an establishment large enough to get through this large bulk of liquor in a year.

In some States beer may be taken as medicine, and so the medical fraternity are regarded as saving the situation by being induced to write a prescription which is at once liberal and satisfying.

It seems impossible to stop the use of the pocket flask, now so commonly carried by all classes of the community. The man who used to have a drink or two per diem now carries about with him a hip flask of varying dimensions, but capable, in many cases, of holding far more than he ever dreamt of getting through in a day under the old system. The jewellers' shops most thoughtfully display pocket flasks and other liquor receptacles in their shop windows, and the purchasers do not always load them with cold tea or ginger beer.

What do these flasks contain? Perhaps the following letter may throw some light on the subject.

Messrs. Haig & Haig, Ltd., wrote to the *Daily Mail* some time ago, quoting a paragraph from a letter from San Francisco. It says :—" Although this country is dry, still the law allows us to bring in whisky in bond; it is then withdrawn for either sacramental or medical purposes as required.

" Recently a new religion has started up in California, the members of which meet several times weekly, at which they are required, as part of the ceremonies, to drink as much whisky as they can conveniently carry. Needless to say, everyone has joined the faith, and a big demand has now sprung up for sacramental whisky.

" The police are powerless to stop the ceremonies, as the Courts have ruled in their favour, with the result that the police are now joining the faith fast; so we look forward to a steady business.

" We are not interested in doing this kind of trade, but we think it probable that California will obtain supplies of whisky for sacramental purposes."

After this, there is little wonder if the authorities get very wary with regard to *wine* bought for sacramental uses.

Unfortunately, such misuse of liquor as that obtaining in California reacts on those who need to take alcoholic drinks for genuinely certified medical uses. In the *Church Times* for March 17th, 1922, an English priest describes his experience in a large city of U.S.A., where he had to deal with a patient suffering from diphtheria.

As the crisis approached, the doctor wished to prescribe whisky, but had no regulation forms in his possession. The local prohibition officials were most vigilant, and the local apothecary dared not supply spirits without a legal prescription, so that for many hours this patient was deprived of what the doctor considered necessary to effect a cure. This case occurred in an institution managed by a religious community; the attending physician was a woman, and the patient was a girl of seven years of age.

The price of spirits has been quintupled, so that the poor cannot possibly buy what is prescribed for them, and as to sacramental wine, it costs double what it used, and in many States it is so hedged around with regulations that it is most difficult to obtain.

This same priest contrasts the foregoing restrictions with what he observed going on all around in regard to the use of alcoholic liquors as beverages.

And he is fully convinced of the unchristian and immoral character of prohibition as embodied in the Volstead Act.

He cites the instance of his visit to a hotel on New Year's Day, when he wished to treat himself to a bottle of Budweiser, a well-known near-bear. The boy said that the Budweiser was all gone, but that he could get another brand.

Stepping closer, he whispered, " Father, I can get you anything you name."

He recommended Rock and Rye, at about fifty shillings a bottle.

Later on, a group of boys and girls of about seventeen years of age, a thoroughly respectable crowd, came in from skating. Within five minutes after their entrance, it was painfully obvious

that they had all been drinking spirits, presumably from the flasks carried by some of the lads.

Another instance is given of a dinner given by a gentleman who resides in the suburbs of one of the great cities. On the sideboard stood Scotch whisky, an excellent cognac, a Swedish rum, a well-known dry gin, an Italian Vermouth, and home-made wine which was fortified with imported brandy. Prohibition could not touch the possession or interfere with the consumption of any of these in a private house, but where were they purchased?

Referring to the habits of young people, the words of Mrs. Asquith are certainly worth quoting. When viewing the working of Prohibition, she said, " I think Prohibition abominable. These laws are make to be broken. At balls, young girls and young men now think it quite ' chic ' to become drunk. There is less drinking in England than in the United States. Englishmen know that they can shoot straighter, ride better, and play better cricket without drinking."

If Prohibition was so successful as we have been led to believe by some, how is it, as reported in the *Daily Telegraph* of March 1st, 1922, that the Executive Council of the U.S. Federation of Labour issued an appeal to the public to demand an amendment of the Volstead Act, to permit the sale of light wines and beer. It is declared by the Council that unemployment has been caused, taxes increased, and insanity, crime and blindness have resulted from the use of drugs taken in the place of liquor.

Lawlessness and other ills are due, the Council states, to an unreasonable interpretation of the Act. Further, it is declared that contempt for all laws among all classes of the people is on the increase, an army of boot-leggers has arisen, and there is an amazing traffic going on in poisons, deadly concoctions, and drugs, the rate of insanity has gone up, blinding and killing have increased, unemployment has been caused by the destruction of forty-five industries, and there is an increase of taxes to the tune of two million pounds annually. A sorry picture, indeed, indicating a social and moral failure.

No wonder that pronouncements are to hand from two judges, testifying to their denouncement of such soul and body destroying methods. The New York Press of May 28th, 1922, reports the annual address as President of the Georgia Bar Association of Judge Arthur G. Powell, in which he declares, speaking of Prohibition, that, in his "calm, deliberate judgment, no enactment of such widespread, vicious, universally debasing effect on our law, and the enforcement of it, has ever been imposed on our people." And yet this Judge was one of those who helped to pass the Prohibition law in Georgia.

Judge Frank Johnson, of the Circuit Court, speaking at the Monison Hotel, Chicago, said :—

" The law does not enforce itself. Still, some of the people are determined to make the rest of the people good by statutes with pains and penalties attached.

" Are we going to permit the self-appointed guardians to erect a super-government over the people?

" We deplore the lack of respect for law and wonder why this condition exists," he continued, " but what else can we expect when we torture people with laws regulating their most private affairs?"

He gave it as his opinion that home life should be free from invasion by Federal or State inspectors. " Search and seizure has an ugly sound to me," he declared.

Mr. Henry Hall, J.P., of Exeter, who has just returned home after a sojourn of several years in the United States, gave an *Express and Echo* (Exeter) (July 19th), representative his views of the results of the adoption of the " dry " policy in that country :—

" There is an idea in the minds of English people (said Mr. Hall) that Prohibition in U.S.A. is an established fact and productive of good. Only the other day an Exonian told me that it was general, and that as a resultant crime in America had decreased. When I asked his authority for such a statement, he assured me that everyone who had been to the United States came home and said so. I ventured to remind him that the visitor from England staying a few weeks or a few months might form that idea, but that the plain facts contradicted that transient and misleading survey. To get at the facts, one needs to live amongst the people, and not be a mere sojourner for a short time. Every other person you meet knows of some famous recipe to make beer, and they make it at home, or they make wine, with a kick in it, from raisins and lemons. Two years ago, when lemons were a drug on the market, some genius found a use for those that were not worth picking from the trees. The discovery was that wine could be made from lemons, that not only had a kick in it, but was drinkable after two weeks' fermentation. This simple discovery not only made a great local demand for lemons where they were grown, but in places as far away as Ohio, the birthplace of prohibition, the price trebled and quadrupled. Raisins which in 1919 were worth about 6d. per lb., jumped up to 1s. 6d. per lb. when Prohibition came into effect. I asked my grocer why we should pay so much as the crop was so large; he said, 'Everyone is buying them, and strange to say, with every large order of raisins I get an order for some cakes of yeast.' Common wine grapes produced in the district, which previously sold at 25 dollars per ton, now fetch as high as 150 dollars per ton. All this home-brewing and wine-making is a serious loss of revenue to the country. There is, perhaps, speaking of spirits, less liquor consumed, but many poisonous mixtures, which never pay any duty, masquerading as spirits, are drunk. One can say to-day that the best paying business is bootlegging, and heavy sentences and fines seem to have no effect, even though the fines in their severity and the imprisonments are unreasonable, and in many cases vindictive. For comparative and illuminating figures, those from Cleveland, the largest city in the home State of Prohibition, speak for themselves without any explanation, and, let me say right here, Cleveland is no new city of the wild and woolly West, but an old city of comparative and average refinement. For the year 1920 Cleveland, with

a population of 800,000, had six times as many murders as London, with a population of 8,000,000. For every robbery or assault with intent to rob committed in London in 1920, 17 such crimes were committed in Cleveland. This reduced to plain figures, assuming that the populations were equal, would mean that for every murder in London, 60 were committed in Cleveland; for every robbery in London, 170 were committed in Cleveland. More robberies and assaults to rob are committed in Cleveland every year than in the whole of England, Scotland and Wales. In New York, close to the principal police station, liquor is sold in a saloon openly across the public bar, and the same can be said of many large cities. Prohibitionists talk glibly about modern psychology and psychiatry, and the defects of our criminal jurisprudence, but these figures are hard facts, not isolated ones, general and universal. In New York City last May there were 719 arrests for drunkenness, and nearly 50 (46 I believe) were driving automobiles. A magistrate, who has been many years on the Bench, said recently that he had never known so many cases of, or growing out of, drunkenness. In a raid on liquor shops recently in New York by two Prohibition agents, 48 persons were caught selling liquor, while many men and women were taken up incapable from drink. At the present time there is being drunk in the U.S.A. a great quantity of so-called whisky of a vile quality, accounting for more deaths than from alcohol in the days before Prohibition. Prohibition is a revolution almost as violent as Bolshevism, and it is hard to say what the end will be. At present it is illogical and non-effective."

We do not restrict our search for evidence to one or two sources, but in common fairness accept such testimony as is contained in the following report, which was published in our English newspapers in March last :—

Striking testimony to the failure of Prohibition is furnished in statistics published by the Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The figures were collected by the Anti-Saloon League from 24 cities in New York State.

In New York City it is shown there was an increase of nearly 1,000 in the number of arrests for drunkenness last year as compared with 1920. The arrests in 1921 were only slightly fewer than in 1918, the last year before Prohibition.

Every other city of more than 15,000 inhabitants for which figures were obtained, showed an increase of arrests for intoxication compared with 1920. The Anti-Saloon League's report also discloses a large increase of arrests for all offences last year as compared with previous years.

Still another aspect of Prohibition is revealed by the Report of the Enforcement Commission for New York that a large number of samples of liquor legitimately obtained from chemists' shops for sick persons proved on analysis to be dangerously poisonous, consisting largely of re-distilled alcohol

An Englishman, who calls himself " A Casual Traveller," recently sent the following to the *Church Times* :—

" I have been in the States many times, and twice since they went dry officially, in January, 1920: six months on one visit and six weeks on my second. I have only just returned to England.

I have heard the matter discussed and threshed out from all points of view, by all sorts and conditions of men and women: doctors, lawyers, fathers of sons, mothers of daughters, and heads of business concerns; and my impression is this: the bulk of educated opinion is against Prohibition, in its present form, and in favour of the restoration of wines and beers, and, possibly the sale of spirits of various kinds under some such control as exists, for example, in the Province of Quebec, Canada.

I can testify as to the way in which young and old, especially the latter, go to almost any extremes to get drink, simply because they are forbidden by a law which they entirely disapprove of.

As regards New York City, it struck me that practically everyone was doing his or her best to evade, defy, and deliberately break the law as it stands as present.

The public bribe the restaurants and dealers, and they, in their turn, bribe the police, and the total result is lying, deception, and bribery and corruption all along the line."

To the foregoing we add the evidence of a Canadian, whose letter was published in the *Church Times* in the spring of this present year.

Such a letter, written on the spot, is worth much more than any comment on the situation made by an outsider.

" The question of the benefit of a total or partial prohibition law is still bitterly debated. In some parts of Canada it is vigorously maintained that the state of the community has been improved. Attention is drawn to the fact that the saloons and bars have been closed, the law is enforced, and an honest attempt is made by a large number to observe it of their own free will. Such places are quoted as illustrative of the benefit of a total prohibition law, and as an argument for its wider adoption. They do exist, I believe; but after seven year's work in Canada, from the Province of Quebec to that of British Columbia, I have not yet met with one. The places I know are not improving in any way under prohibition. As an illustration, may I submit a few facts concerning a valley running for a hundred miles or so north of Ottawa. The population, numbering several thousand, is made up for the main part of farmers, lumbermen, and storekeepers, largely English and French Canadians. Church of England folk, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, and Methodists all flourish. There are one or two small towns with a population varying from seven hundred to about three thousand. Total prohibition reigns supreme. With what result? To the casual visitor it would appear a wonderful success.

There is not an open saloon in the valley, the bars have been swept away, and a ' drunk ' on the streets of our villages is a rare sight. But let the visitor stay a few months. He will then see the ugly side of things. In the place of the saloon and bar has sprung into existence the hidden ' still ' and filthy drinking den. These ' blind pigs,' as they are called, simply cover the valley. Every community has not just one or two, but often up to fifty. There are few ' drunks ' on the streets and roads simply because old stables have been set apart for their use. There they lie until they are more or less sober. In this town at Railhead, the headquarters of our mission, every hotel except one is a ' blind pig,' and we have no less than forty-five rotten little ' shacks ' in which men can stay and drink themselves insensible. Our population is less than three thousand, so it is obvious that under properly controlled licences we should not have fifty-two saloons in such a small town. The conditions throughout the whole valley are very similar.

In your issue of February 17 (which has just arrived) you mention cases of alcoholic poisoning and deaths from deleterious drink which have occurred in the United States. Our experience is the same, though, of course on a much smaller scale. Sickness and death after visits to drinking dens are not uncommon. But the women and children suffer more, especially in a severe winter. Yet there is no official inquiry and nobody punished.

Above all, the deceit, bribery (even of police) and consequent contempt for law, which is steadily spreading, is not raising the character of the people."

Last year I uttered a warning about the intoxicating nature of bee wine, now so largely used in England and elsewhere.

My remarks called forth some criticism, but my contention was upheld by a lady who gave me direct evidence bearing out what I said and adding to it considerably.

Unfortunately, I am not permitted to make public the contents of the letter.

But in the *Evening News* some time ago a paragraph drew attention to what was headed " The Raspberry Sin," where Mr. A. W. Stokes, the official analyst of the Paddington Borough Council, reported that a sample of raspberry wine submitted to him showed no less than 20¼ per cent. of proof spirit.

Mr. Stokes was evidently much struck by what he found in this teetotallers' drink, and his comment was " A quite exhilarating beverage." I can quite imagine many disciples of Mr. Pussyfoot being very much shocked and prepared to doubt the analysis.

Still, you never know what you might be drinking, and raspberry wine with a kick in it is not a bad tonic which wearers of the blue ribbon can respectably indulge in.

In addition to the foregoing ways of evading the law in the States and elsewhere, we find vast quantities of liquor being made from home-grown fruits, berries and apples, and this is distributed in various ways in all the States.

Bon-bons contain secret receptacles for strong drink and candy is rum-filled. The public saloon has vanished, and it is something to be thankful for, for dirty, frowsy and unwholesome as some of our English public-houses are, far worse conditions used to obtain in many districts of U.S.A.

But what have we in the place of the old saloons? We have secret saloons, hidden behind the respectable haberdashers', barbers', and other stores, and the smaller restaurants.

You buy a collar, but you cannot buy a drink, unless you are known to be safe.

Your hair is cut by the barber at a high price because you are a regular customer and a drink is included in the price. You have a meal at a restaurant, and in one way or another a drink is handed to you if you are in the know.

Thus the law is evaded and persistently ignored by millions of citizens, who only ask for a reasonable amount of liberty and freedom.

But I pass to consider what I believe to be a far worse evil in the world even than drunkenness, and that is drug taking. Opinions differ very largely as to whether the passing of the Prohibition law is responsible or not for the increasing consump-

tion of deadly drugs. I think it is quite reasonable to assume that it *is* responsible.

There seems to be an insane fascination, for instance, for cocaine, the use of which has become a curse all over the world.

Cocaine is obtained from the coca plant, which grows in South America, and is the remarkable alkaloid which comes from it.

Cocaine is a pleasing and soothing intoxicant, the effects of which are derived from chewing the leaves mixed with clay or ashes, or from sniffing the powder up the nostrils.

Its medicinal use has been a blessing to mankind, but its use as a stimulant is an untold evil.

Long ago the *British Medical Journal* described the symptoms of cocainism.

The article described the way in which hunger ceased by the deadening of the gastric nerves, upon which the sense of hunger largely depends. It proceeded to notice the pleasing and rapid effect upon discomforts of the mouth and nose and throat, of the way in which it relieved congestion, and conveyed relief to singers suffering from sore throats and colds.

But it has its deadly side, for many, many users of cocaine find themselves inmates of lunatic asylums. It is an enslaving drug, soon making conquest of its consumer, and most demoralising in its effects.

We have had pictures put before us of the morphine-maniac, and they have horrified us, but such are but a feeble, hazy outline compared with a picture of the cocaine madman.

Some victims of morphine have used cocaine to get rid of the craving for morphine, only to find that they have cast out one devil and admitted seven. Dr. Saleeby asserts that the United States has witnessed more cocainism than any other country, but from the many discoveries of supplies of the drug and the prosecutions of the users, it seems as if Great Britain and France are heavy offenders in this respect. We are all aware of the evil effects of night clubs on public morals, and this is largely because cocaine is indulged in largely in the form of apparently innocent drinks and sweets, such as wines, cocoas, voice lozenges and pastilles, but however taken, if the habit be continued, the same end is reached eventually.

I suggest that if once Prohibition is made law in England, there will be a tremendous increase in the use of dope of all kinds.

During the war, when the sale of strong drink was restricted and the hours much curtailed, I was enabled to make certain investigations into the habits of the people in one or two quarters of London.

To my horror I found there was a large consumption of methylated spirit, eau-de-Cologne and other deadly spirits going on, and, unfortunately, this has survived to this day.

We know something again of the way in which opium dens carry on their nefarious business here and elsewhere.

A friend of mine, an English M.D., recently conducted a private investigation, so that he might see for himself what was being done. I spare you the details which he enumerates. The official reports are quite bad enough, but these are nothing to what can be said on the subject.

But the sad part of it all is that, because of the intense craving for drugs and the immense profits to be gained by sales, it will never be possible to stamp out the supply of opium, cocaine, morphine, or any other drug, any more than has the sale and production of alcoholic liquor been stopped by Prohibition.

"We have made more arrests for the illicit sale of drugs in the last year than were made in the preceding ten years," said Mr. Richard E. Enright, Police Commissioner of New York, to a *Sunday Express* representative recently. "The illicit sale of drugs is on the increase. Drug vendors are using schoolgirls and boys in their trade. In the last year we have seized and destroyed more than £650,000 worth of drugs. There is no doubt that many people who have accustomed themselves to the effects of alcohol now turn to drugs for a similar stimulation. Prohibition is a failure. It has not proved effective, and I don't think it will while it is possible to make whisky and smuggle it into the United States. Last year we had more arrests for drunkenness than the year before Prohibition came into force."

A correspondent in the *Daily Mail* gives the result of his investigations into the underground homes of tragedy in England.

He says: "Prohibition, which in U.S.A. has driven many to secret drinking and drug-taking, has its counterpart in London, where petty restrictions have driven pleasure seekers underground into unwholesome places. The caterer of wholesome amusement, owing to Pussyfoot legislation, is having to give way to alleged clubs run by undesirables for undesirables.

He paints a lurid picture of his visits of enquiry to the underworld, describes the luxury, the secrecy, the drinking, the drugging and the inevitable sad results, and he pleads for a brighter London aboveground as an antidote to an abandoned, shameless London underground.

Another investigator describes the way in which the illicit traffic in drugs, cocaine, veronal, heroine, etc., is carried on in spite of all the measures taken by the authorities.

The profits are so enormous that it is worth while for some of the cleverest crooks in the world to turn their talents to this

means of acquiring wealth. Drugs are brought into the country concealed in children's toys, toy balloons, chest protectors, fancy vests, dolls, mechanical toys and other articles. Such goods are addressed to *bonâ-fide* firms, but are collected by persons who pose as their agents.

If dope is smuggled into the country on the person, it is often in tiny phials or packets secreted in the lining of clothes or underclothes.

With regard to distribution, there is a sort of directory compiled from police court records, and from the touts at certain night clubs.

Women skilled in picking out persons whose appearance suggests that of drug takers work at the distribution with skill and secrecy. Very little is sold in the street, except by amateurs, whose trade soon ceases, as the police are particularly active in stopping this traffic.

The evidence given in our Police Courts and elsewhere in England as to the increase of the consumption of cocaine is, to my mind, most alarming. What will it be if Prohibition ever becomes law in our land?

Mr. Frederick Mead, a Magistrate at Marlborough Street, has said :—

" The number of young girls in the West End who are cocaine takers is quite appalling.

" This insidious habit of taking cocaine seems to be making great progress."

Scotland Yard has been waging war on the cocaine traffic for several years past, but they have not succeeded in stamping it out, for in France, Germany and Holland the real disseminators of the drug live in luxury, whilst their agents pass on cocaine, and, in fact, other drugs, until at last these are retailed in Leicester Square and some restaurants and teashops in Piccadilly and Oxford Street. Tiny packets are sold for five or ten shillings, while less than an ounce often realises £10.

There are said to be over four million drug addicts in America to-day, and it is believed that the cocaine habit was largely introduced into the States and also into England by the Canadian contingent of the army.

The *Daily Chronicle* quotes evidence from an authority who has carefully studied the drug habit in the United States.

He says :—" Previous to 1885, the properties of cocaine were but little known, except to the South American Indians, who used the drug as a nerve stimulant. Since then its use and abuse have become so extensive in America that it seriously threatens the nation's morality and well-being. From 1898 to 1902 coca leaves were imported into the United States to the value of

83,214 dollars. From 1903 to 1907 the value of the imported leaves had grown to 1,090,690 dollars. In Philadelphia 600 times as much cocaine was sold as could be legitimately used; in New York 850 times more, in San Francisco 720 times more, in Chicago 825 times, and in Washington 300 times."

A Government report in 1910 states that cocaine was sold so freely in New York City that in the neighbourhood of Nott Street alone over 1,000 ounces of the pure drug were sold monthly. An ounce contains 480 grains, so that 480,000 doses of pure cocaine were sold each month. This estimate is, however, below the mark, since cocaine, in the form of snuff, is easily adulterated with substances like bi-carbonate of potassium.

A druggist who has a store in the Tenderloin district owns to the sale of 14 ounces of cocaine for sniffing every Saturday.

The drug has a frightful effect upon its users, who seldom live more than six or eight years after contracting the habit. Yet until 1914 there was practically no restraint in the States on the sale of cocaine, though 95 per cent. of it was sold secretly.

When the Boylan Anti-Drug Act came into force, it allowed limited quantities of morphine, cocaine, heroin, opium, codeine or chloral to be sold by prescription, but none without a prescription. Yet large doses are possible even now by connivance between physician, drug seller and patient.

Why Prohibitionists, who must know how such drugs are increasingly used in England, do not give attention to a trade which destroys body and soul far more effectively than any kind of strong drink, passes my comprehension.

Sir Francis Lloyd, acting in conjunction with the Commissioner of Police, has dealt with the matter as it affects our soldiers with a masterly hand, but effective steps as regard civilians have not yet been adopted to any considerable degree.

I might speak very fully on this and kindred abuses, but I think I have said sufficient to rouse many to think of what is possibly an alternative to strong drink, even now in our own land, and what would be, I believe, an evil surpassing any we have at present if Prohibition is ever put on our Statute Book.

Now I willingly admit that whilst much has been done in various ways to remove the terrible sin of drunkenness in our midst, much more must be attempted.

The soaker and the dram drinker are still with us, and these are a pestilence and an evil in any community.

First of all, I would advocate much more definite punishment for the men and women who by their drunkenness create low environment, become a nuisance, and spread ruin from themselves to their families and to other citizens whom they are able to influence.

I agree next with Miss Hall, of the Church Army Rescue Department, who has investigated the drug traffic very thoroughly, especially as it touches the white slave traffic, and she strongly urges making the punishment very heavy and the fine a really large one, for, as she says, it is the profits of the trade which cause the habit to spread.

You will naturally expect me to conclude by a reference to what I, as a temperance man, who is animated by the desire to see England free from excess of every kind, and her people sober and happy, advocate as a solution of the liquor question. When Prohibition became law in America, we in England were told by certain orators, who had the audacity to think they could set *our* house in order, that in ten years England would be bone dry.

But as a result of the recent elections in America, where the Republican majority has been practically wiped out and a Democratic majority will probably take its place, it is not improbable, as a result of the evident wish of large sections of the populace, that America will become damp again, if not wet.

As a proof of this tendency, the *Church Times* points out that in general the Democrats stood for a modification of the Volstead Law, and in most of the districts where the Anti-Prohibition party advocated the toleration of light wines and beers, their candidates were returned.

And a letter in the *Daily Mail* on November 10th bears out this contention, adding the views of the President:—

" Considerable surprise was caused at a meeting at the Republican Women's Club when Mrs. Robinson, sister of President Roosevelt, read a letter from President Harding on the subject of Prohibition.

In this letter the President declared that while he did not expect to see the 18th Amendment (the Prohibition Law) abolished, the public mind was undoubtedly shifting somewhat on the question of the enforcement of Prohibition.

Mrs. Robinson would not permit the reproduction of the text of the letter, but the general trend of it was a prophecy of the liberalising of the Prohibition Enforcement Act."

No, Prohibition, Local Veto, Sunday Closing, or any other like measure, will not settle the matter for English liberty-loving people, all and any of these will break down in working. The *Guardian* is concerned at present with the proposals of the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches, which advocates local option, a measure which was discredited long ago. True temperance can never be based on a policy which curbs the citizen's reasonable liberty in any shape or form.

Would it not be better to try what so very many in our day believe is a method which promises success, namely, the reformed

public house? After all, temperance is self-control, and our problem consists in searching out the best way in which the use of fermented beverages may be moderated. Excess is always disastrous, and this vice is fostered by the secrecy and private character of the houses where strong drink is to be obtained.

Reform your public house, making it actually what it professes to be. Provide for a man's eating as well as drinking. Set up the comfortable lounge, and supply tea and coffee as well as whisky and beer, instal a piano, a telephone, newspapers, and perhaps books, introduce vases of flowers and plants, and remove the sight of rows of bottles, and the experiment will prove itself worth the while.

The working classes have too long had to take their refreshment in surroundings at which the better classes would feel repugnance, and this must be changed.

Reform also your licence-holder, turn out the man who incites his customers to drink excessively, and put in the intellectual, well-conducted and respectable citizen, and so, without taking away an ounce of our liberty and freedom of action, you will have lifted up the whole concern and made for greater self-respect and less tendency to depravity and excess.

This method seems to me to be worth a trial, as there would be no lessening of the joys of life, but a deepening of them, and, after all, no sane reformer ought to advocate anything whereby he might earn for himself the title of " kill-joy."

The promotion of temperance in the individual should be our goal, and this, along the lines which Milton asked for—" Give me," said he, " above all other liberties, the liberty to know, to think and to act freely, *according to conscience*."

Or we may profitably consider in this connection the words of that great patriot, Cromwell, who said: " To deny a man the liberty he hath by nature, upon a supposition that he will abuse it, is unjust."

" If he doth abuse it, judge."

We are setting out to build a house, to establish it on a strong foundation. We wish to furnish it appropriately, and we want it to endure. We hope to guard against the attacks of unscrupulous foes.

Such a statement is applicable to many of the important edifices we wish to erect in the world.

The writer of the Proverbs points out the only true way in which we can hope to succeed.

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